

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, and 19 were amended.

The drawings and claim 10 were objected to. Claim 1, 10, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-4, 9-13, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by what the Examiner indicates as “applicant’s admitted prior art” (hereinafter “AAPA”). Claims 5-8, 14-17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA.

Objections to the Drawings and Claims

The drawings and claim 10 were objected to. The amended Figure 2 and Figure 3 are attached. Applicant is not amending Figures 2 and 3 to remove the “hop-overs”. As stated in the Office Action, “hop-overs” indicate crossing wires that are not connected. Further, the drawings are currently at the maximum size allowed under PTO guidelines. These space constraints currently dictate keeping the wires at their current spacing. Increasing the spacing would cause crowding of other areas of the figure, likely causing an increase in confusion and not a decrease. The drawings currently have enough spacing in their present incarnation to accurately separate out the different wires and to differentiate between the connections. A complete replacement set of drawings is also enclosed. Claim 10 has been amended to overcome the Examiner’s objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 10, 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 10, 19 have been amended to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claims 1-4, 9-13, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by AAPA. AAPA does not teach or suggest a first storage element coupled to an output of the first multiplexer and a second storage element coupled to an output of the second multiplexer, as claimed in claims 1, 10, and 19 as amended. Claims 2-4, 9, 11-13, 18, and 20-21 depend from claims 1, 10, and claim 19, respectively. Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 9-13, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 5-8, 14-17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA. As stated above, elements of claims 1, 10, and 19 are neither shown nor suggested by AAPA. Claims 5-8, 14-17 and 22 depend from claims 1, 10, and 19, respectively. Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-8, 14-17 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Accordingly reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

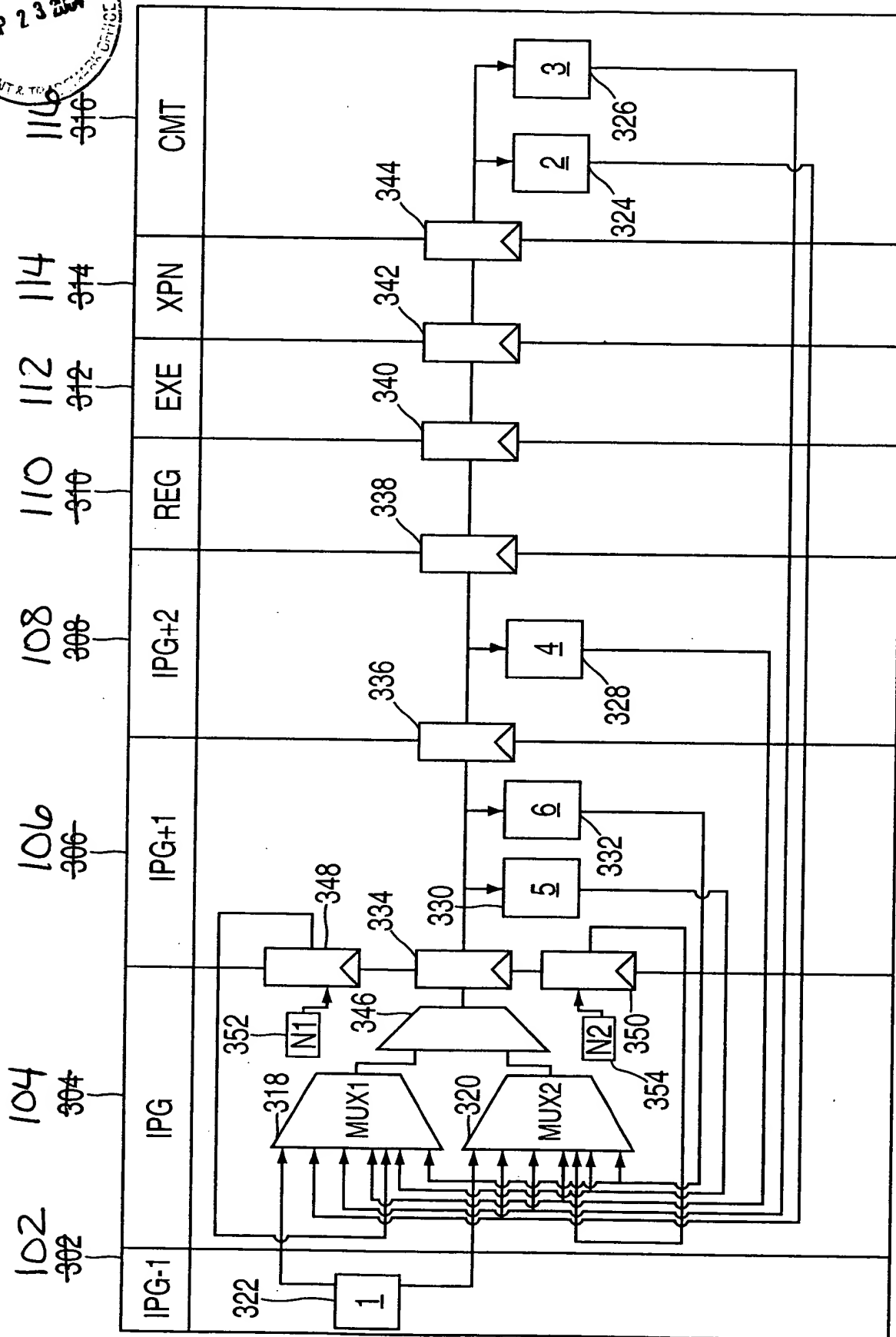
The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 2 and Figure 3. These sheets, which include Figures 1-4, replace the original sheets filed.

Attachment: Annotated Sheets Showing Changes
Replacement Sheets

ANNOTATED SHEET



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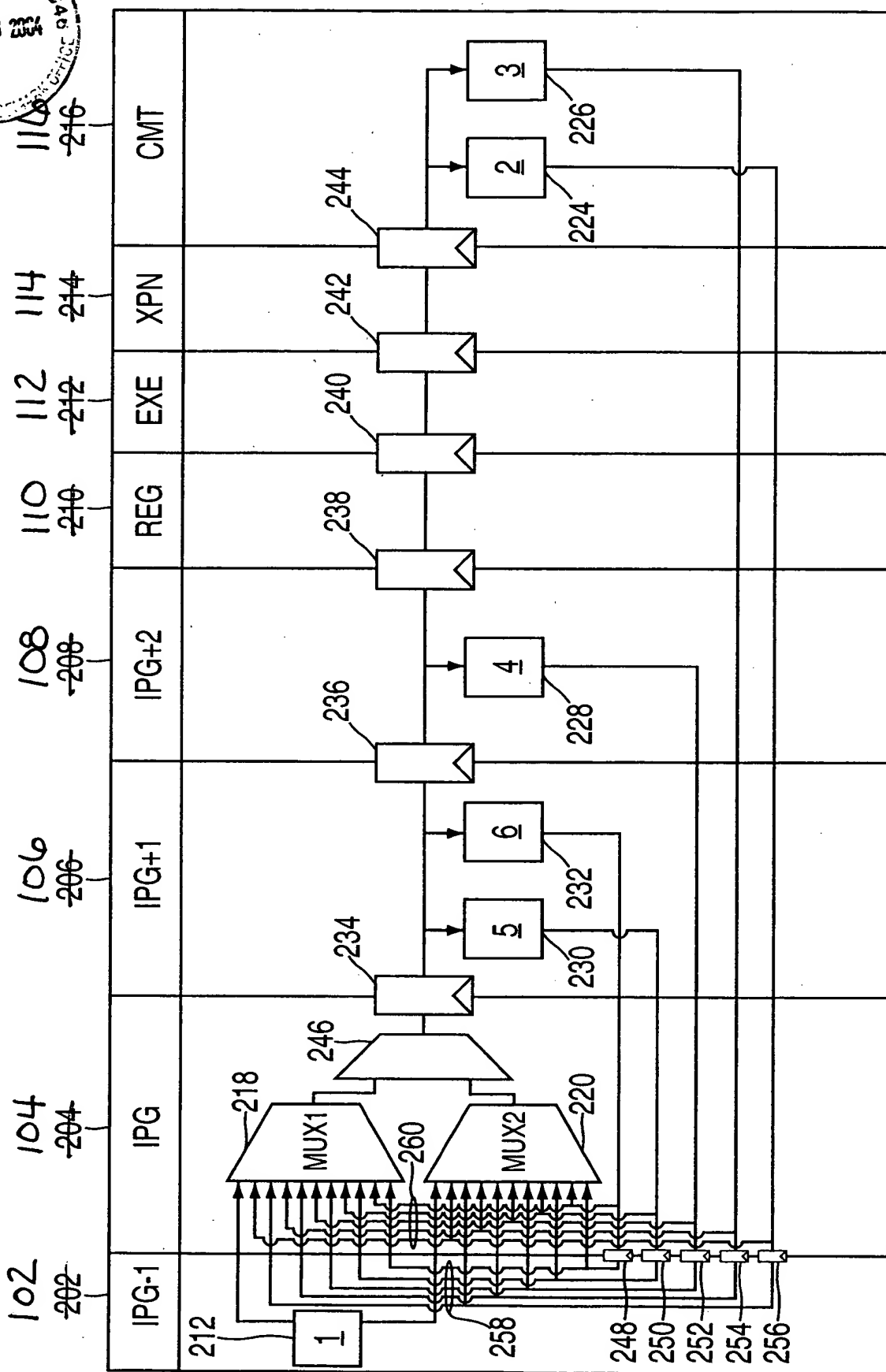


MULTIPLEXER PRIORITY: 1 - DEBUG/DFT IP 2 - EXCEPTION/FAULT RE-STEER 3 - BRANCH MISPREDICT RE-STEER
 4 - '1' BUBBLE BRANCH RE-STEER 5 - '0' BUBBLE BRANCH RE-STEER 6 - SEQUENTIAL IP (IP+1)

FIG.3

ANNOTATED SHEET

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MULTIPLEXER PRIORITY: 1 - DEBUG/DFT IP 2 - EXCEPTION/FAULT RE-STEER 3 - BRANCH MISPREDICT RE-STEER
 4 - '1' BUBBLE BRANCH RE-STEER 5 - '0' BUBBLE BRANCH RE-STEER 6 - SEQUENTIAL IP (IP+1)

FIG.2 (PRIOR ART)